

# NEWS RELEASE

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

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For Immediate Release

**July 19, 2005**

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that **JOSEPH SANDERS**, age 37, an inmate at the maximum security United States Penitentiary at Marion, Illinois, was found guilty on Monday, July 18, 2005, of possessing a weapon in the prison following a bench trial. The trial was conducted by a United States District Judge in the courtroom facilities at USP-Marion. SANDERS was charged with the offense by a Federal Grand Jury on May 4, 2004.

Evidence adduced at trial leading to the conviction showed that on March 24, 2004, during a routine search of his cell and person by correctional officers, SANDERS was found to have a homemade 3 and 1/2 inch metal knife, commonly referred to in prison as a shank, concealed in his shoe.

SANDERS faces up to 5 years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and a term of 3 years mandatory supervised release following incarceration. Federal law requires that his sentence for this offense be imposed consecutively to the sentence he is now serving. SANDERS is currently serving a 300 month sentence imposed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida in 1992 for being an armed career criminal in possession of a firearm.

A sentencing date approximately three months in the future will be set by the court. Defendant remains in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons at USP-Marion.

Investigation into the case was conducted by agents of the Carbondale office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and investigative agents of the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James M. Cutchin.